

Salato Wildlife
Education Center
(502) 564-7863

Spring Events



Kentucky Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Resources, #1 Sportsman's Ln., Frankfort, KY 40601 • fw.ky.gov



Toyota volunteers sweat for Salato

The September 27th celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day was given extra meaning this year by the hard work of over 200 Toyota volunteers, who came from as far away as Texas and Japan, and as close as KSU and Franklin County High School. For Toyota, it was also National Public Lands Day.

The crowning achievement of the day was the construction of a 200-foot boardwalk at the beginning of the Habi-Trek Trail that provides wheelchair and stroller access as far as the Outdoor Classroom. Kids and adults of all abilities can now join groups using the classroom area for programs and workshops.

Toyota's volunteer team also dug three vernal pools in a forest exhibit, repainted the bird mews, removed invasive honeysuckle bush, planted native trees and shrubs, cut a short trail through the new prairie (also ADA-accessible) across from the bison, and another leading down to the Dragonfly Marsh. They also performed a ton of maintenance work on the Pea Ridge trail, and cleaned up an illegal dump site located on the back of the property.

The Salato Wildlife Education Center would like to deeply thank William Taylor and all who volunteered their hard work. Special thanks also go to our sponsors who contributed the lumber and supplies to the event: Roy Peach Lumber, Lowes Home Improvement Warehouse, and Starbuck's Coffee. We are better because of you.

February - May 2009

HOURS OF OPERATION:

The Salato Wildlife Education Center is closed from Dec. 14 - Feb. 16. We will reopen Tuesday, Feb. 17.

Tuesday - Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday and Monday: Closed

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

April 10: Good Friday, closes at noon
May 25: Memorial Day

TRAIL CLOSINGS:

May 9-10: The HabiTrek and Pea Ridge Trails will be closed for the Tim Farmer Archery Classic.

The Salato Wildlife Education Center is located at the headquarters of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, on U.S. 60 1.5 miles west of U.S. 127 in Frankfort.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS!

The little ghosts and goblins came out in full force for the 2008 Halloween Walk with the Animals and their response was that this was our best event yet. Many tireless volunteers, local individuals and businesses made this event possible, and thanks to everyone, we raised \$5,600. This and money collected through other donations goes toward new exhibits, programs, and supplies that assure that the Salato Wildlife Education Center offers visitors the best experience possible.

Event Sponsor: Walmart

Gold Sponsors

- Farmer's Bank
- McDonalds-Graviss Restaurants
- Rodney Ratliff

Silver Sponsors

- Chenault and Hoge Insurance
- Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Kentucky, Inc.

Friend Sponsor

- Frankfort Communications





Hunting and fishing licenses expire Feb. 28

Buying a 2009 license can support a whole year of outdoor fun! Even if you don't hunt or fish, one of the best investments you can make in preserving Kentucky's abundant wildlife resources is to purchase a hunting and/or fishing license. And, please don't forget to save something on your taxes! In addition to buying a hunting and fishing license, you can use the voluntary write-off at the end of your tax return to help us protect and promote fish and wildlife resources throughout Kentucky. For more information on how to preserve habitat go to fw.ky.gov/checkoff.asp. As always, we thank you for your continued support throughout the year!

February 28 Salato Center Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, 10 a.m. – noon
Cost: \$10. Limit: 12.
Ages 7 and up

Beat the winter blahs by taking a fun scavenger hunt around Salato. Explore the exhibits, wildlife, and the native plants to test your nature detective skills. We will provide scavenger hunts for all ages. To help promote their thinking skills, kids will also get to decorate their own safari hats to take home. **Registration and pre-payment are required.**

March 7 A Budding Tree I.D. Hike

Saturday, 2 – 4 p.m.
Cost: \$10. Limit: 15.
Ages 15 and up

Early spring provides the perfect opportunity for you to improve your tree identification skills without the leaves to trick you! Most tree identification books fall short when it comes to identifying bark, but you won't be left out on a limb after this walk. Join Mary Carol Cooper, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' Native Plant

Program Coordinator, as she guides you on a hike to meet some of your woody neighbors! Learn how to identify trees using twigs, bark and other characteristics. To continue the exploration in your own backyard, all participants will receive a winter tree identification book to take home. Be sure to dress warmly and wear appropriate shoes. The program may be cancelled due to bad weather. **Registration and pre-payment are required.**

Spring Ahead!

Daylight saving time
begins March 8!



March 11 Brown Bag Lunch Series – A Lepidoptera Lunch: Gardening for Butterflies

Wednesday, noon – 1 p.m.
Cost: Free. Limit: None.
All are welcome!

Bring your lunch to the Salato Center and learn a few gardening tips that butterflies find irresistible! Did you know butterflies see colors we can't? Or that

survival for some butterflies depends on certain native plants? From a crunching caterpillar to a beautiful butterfly, these insects are fun to observe and we will teach you how to attract them to your own backyard. Registration and pre-payment are not required.



March 14 Backyard Birding Basics

Saturday, 2 – 4 p.m.
Cost: \$10. Limit: 15.
Ages 10 and up.

Ever wonder who is singing that sweet morning song? Learn how to identify birds with this introductory workshop on the basics of backyard birding. Birding is a challenging way to increase your awareness of our natural wildlife. We will introduce the basic tools necessary, give you ideas for where to go birding, and help you with identification techniques. Participants will view a brief slide show of some common resident birds before trying out their skills! We will provide binoculars, but you can bring your own if you prefer. Program may be cancelled due to bad weather. **Registration and pre-payment are required.**



March 21

Landscaping with Wildflowers

Saturday, 2 – 3 p.m.

Cost: \$10. Limit: 20

Participants: Adults.

Join our native plant expert for an afternoon of learning about our native wildflowers and their importance for a healthy habitat. We'll explore the different plant communities in Kentucky and help you get started with a plan for a natural community in your own backyard. You'll learn more about shade and sun preferences for native plants, too. Creating a backyard habitat can conserve water and give you an opportunity for a little wildlife viewing close to home! All participants will receive a free wildflower to plant at home. **Registration and pre-payment are required.**

April 4

Step Up & Shoot – Archery Style

Saturday, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Cost: Free! Limit: None.

Participants: Anyone who can draw a bow. Great for families!

Whether you're a beginner or just need a little practice, come out to release a few shots at our archery targets. We'll have bulls-eye and 3-D targets for you to check your aim. Trained staff will



Safari Spring Break at Salato

Kids, do you need a break from the school year? Join us at the Salato Center during the week of March 31 – April 3 for lots of fun activities and programs planned for all ages!

March 31 Raptor Parade

Tuesday, 2 – 3 p.m.

Cost: Free!

Kentucky is home to four types of birds of prey. Come out to Salato to meet our resident raptors at the Butterfly Amphitheatre. Learn what makes these birds magnificent and which ones we call the "tigers of the sky." No registration required.

April 1 Junior Explorer Day

Wed., 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Cost: \$20. Limit: 20.

Ages 7 – 12

Kids will go wild during this all-day event exploring different native habitats. The fun begins with a "Backyard Safari," but no safari is complete without a proper hiking stick! There will be hiking sticks ready for every kid to add his or her uniquely creative designs. To continue the exploration, we will search our hiking trails for signs of wildlife and native plants. Kids will create their own nature journals and learn the importance of recording observations through field notes. For our final journey, we'll finish our day with a Pond Prowl at the Dragonfly Marsh. Young explorers will get a chance to see aquatic insects and other aquatic creatures up close. This will be an exciting event, so bring your enthusiasm! At noon, lunch will be on your own. Parents are required to be on the premises with their kids throughout the day. **Registration and pre-payment are required.**

April 2 Creature Feature: Reptiles

Thursday, 2 – 3 p.m.

Cost: Free!

If you've got a kid that loves snakes and turtles, then join us for an hour of reptile mania. You'll get an up-close look at Salato's reptiles. Have a fear of snakes? Then maybe this is just what the doctor ordered! Learn why these animals are an important piece of a healthy ecosystem and which ones are in your area.

April 3 Fishy Fun

Friday, 2 – 4 p.m.

Cost: Free!

Join *Kentucky Afield* writer Lee McClellan for an afternoon of fishing at our lower lakes. Enjoy the spring air, some shade, and the joy that comes with a kid catching a fish. We'll have plenty of experienced help on hand for you to have a great fishing experience or just to get some fishing advice. We will provide fishing rods and bait to each participant. Participants 16 years and older will need a fishing license to fish. This program is fun for adults and kids of all ages!



Celebrate National Wildlife Week & Earth Day April 21-25

Stop by the Salato Center to check out our Earth Day exhibit and special programs throughout the week!

April 21 A Humble Abode for Toads

Tuesday, 1 – 4 p.m.
Cost: \$10.
All ages are welcome.

This is a fun activity for any age! We will be recycling flowerpots to create a habitat any amphibian would love to call home. These flowerpots give adequate cover in your garden for small animals. Bring your creative side to add a little flare to your toad abode. Materials are provided. No registration required.

April 21 Pine Cone Bird Feeders

Tuesday, 1 – 4 p.m.
Cost: Free.
All are welcome.

Peanut butter, kids and bird seed seem to go hand in hand. Kids love to create their very own birdfeeder in this activity. We will provide everything you need to take home a crafty bird treat in a neat package! No registration required.

April 22 Free Trees!

Wednesday, Earth Day

Starting on Earth Day, we will give away free trees while supplies last! Plant a tree with your family, church or school to give back to Mother Nature.

April 22 Rain Gardens

Wednesday, noon – 1 p.m.
Cost: Free.
All are welcome!

We know Kentucky's wildflowers can benefit our native wildlife. Join us for a discussion about how rain gardens can benefit your habitat as well. Building a rain garden is an innovative environmental project great for schools, churches, community centers or even for your own backyard! The process is easy. Let us show you how. No registration required.

April 25 Wildflower Hike

Saturday, 1 – 3 p.m.
Cost: \$10.
Ages 13 and up

Take the time to enjoy a hike with Kentucky Fish & Wildlife's Native Plant Coordinator, Mary Carol Cooper, as she shows you the blooming beauties on the forest floor. Kentucky is home to over 2,000 wildflower species that thrive in different geographic regions of our state. We'll help you identify native wildflowers in our area and explain why they are important for wildlife. The hike will take place on the Pea Ridge hiking trail, so please wear appropriate shoes and bring water! The Pea Ridge trail is a primitive trail and is rated moderately strenuous. Program may be cancelled due to bad weather. **Registration and pre-payment are required.**

be on hand to give you advice or just to help you for the first time. We will provide all the necessary equipment for you to give this fun and easy sport a try! No registration required.

April 8



Brown Bag Lunch Series – Kentuckians Before Boone

Wednesday, noon – 1 p.m.
Cost: Free! Limit: None.
All are welcome.

University of Kentucky's Gwynn Henderson will be joining us to share what life was like in prehistoric Kentucky. Native people lived here for thousands of years using the land and its resources to survive. She will talk about early living during this pristine time and how they used plants and animals for more than just food. Bring your lunch to learn more about daily life for the first Kentuckians. No registration required.

May 2 Air Rifles

Saturday, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Cost: Free!
Ages 8 and up.

Air rifles will be set up with targets downrange for you and your kids to test your aim. We will provide all the safety and necessary equipment needed to have a fun day at the range. Salato staff will be on hand to assist with any shot, and kids can take their targets home to show off their score. No registration required.



May 9 Birding by Ear Walk

Saturday, 7 – 10 a.m.

Cost: \$10.

Ages 13 and up. Great for bird watchers!

Early birds see beautiful sunrises, catch the beginnings of a new day, and on this day they will get to hear the sweet songs of nature. Join Jamie Cook for an early day of birding at Cove Springs Park. Visitors will receive a short presentation at Salato and a ride to various locations to test their birding ears or fine tune their existing skills! You can bring your own binoculars, or feel free to borrow some of ours. We will also have a few field guides on

hand for identification. Program may be cancelled due to bad weather. To be better prepared you should wear appropriate shoes, wear no bright clothing and bring water. **Registration and pre-payment are required.**

May 13 Brown Bag Lunch Series – Where's the Hellbender?

Wednesday, noon – 1 p.m.

Cost: Free!

All are welcome.

The Eastern Hellbender, one of the largest salamanders in the world, can be found in the foothills of Kentucky. Existing only in the eastern half of the United States, populations of this gentle



creature are on the decline. Join wildlife biologist Greg Lipps as he tells us the story behind the hellbender and what is being done to help increase populations. No registration required.



May 16 A Canoeing Adventure for Wildlife Watchers

Saturday, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Cost: \$35.

Ages 15 and up. Great for wildlife watchers!

We will be taking a guided canoe trip with Salato staff and Canoe Kentucky for a wildlife watching trip like never before! This is an opportunity for you to see wildlife in its truest form on the beautiful Elkhorn Creek. Surrounded by nature, outdoor enthusiasts are bound to find something to their liking on this trip! We will meet at the Salato Center at 8 a.m. and then travel to Canoe Kentucky. We will be taking a 6 mile canoe trip with about 2 hours of paddling. This course is good for beginners and intermediate paddlers. Please bring lunch, water and sunscreen, and wear water shoes and clothes that can get wet. A waterproof bag is a good idea to store items you don't

want to get wet. You can bring your own field guides and binoculars, but we can also provide a few. Small coolers are allowed for food and drink items. Life vest, paddles and canoes will be provided by Canoe Kentucky. Program may be cancelled due to bad weather. **Registration and pre-payment are required.**



May 23 Critter Catching

Saturday, 1 – 3 p.m.

Cost: \$10.

Ages 10 and up

Aquatic habitats provide kids an opportunity to learn and explore the little critters that live beneath the surface. Salato staff will help guide your child into looking below the surface into an underwater world that plays an important role in our ecosystem. Kids will get a chance to use the proper tools necessary to find small invertebrates and learn about their importance in our environment. Be sure to wear appropriate clothing, bring your sense of adventure, and don't be afraid to get wet. Program may be cancelled due to bad weather. **Registration and pre-payment are required.**



PROGRAMS WITH FEWER THAN FIVE PEOPLE REGISTERED

are subject to cancellation. To register for one of the workshops, please call us at (502) 564-7863.

View our Calendar of Events online at fw.ky.gov.

Just click on "Upcoming Events" to search for activities at Salato or across the state. Even better, you'll receive 10% off the price of Salato programs and events when you present your valid Kentucky hunting or fishing license!



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Ky. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Resources
#1 Sportsman's Lane
Frankfort, KY 40601



Conservation Camps: A Summer That Lasts A Lifetime!



The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources operates three conservation camps in the Commonwealth: Camp John Currie on Kentucky Lake, Camp Earl Wallace on Lake Cumberland and Camp Robert C. Webb on Grayson Lake. Campers will have a memorable experience with hands-on activities such as wildlife identification, archery, boating and canoeing, outdoor survival, firearm safety (rifle and shotgun shooting), fishing and casting, and swimming (Red Cross approved). Successful completion of a camp activity entitles the camper to an achievement patch. Campers may also earn the nationally recognized Kentucky Hunter Education Certificate as well as the Boater Education Certificate. In all activities, campers are given basic but complete instruction in the safe pursuit of outdoor activities and skills related to our natural resources. Camp is open to all Kentucky students who are in grades 4-6 and NOT older than 13 years. The deadline for registration is April 15, so apply today. Call 1-800-858-1549 for more details or visit us on the web at fw.ky.gov.